

23 June 2016

Ms Amanda Honeyman
Research Director
Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
hasc@parliament.qld.gov.au

**Inquiry into Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016
Cancer Council Queensland Submission**

Dear Ms Honeyman,

Thank you for seeking Cancer Council Queensland's comment in response to the Health and Ambulance Services Committee's Inquiry on the *Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016*. We support the State Government's action to create a new regulatory framework under which medicinal cannabis products may be prescribed and dispensed to patients in Queensland while also preventing their unauthorised use.


Cancer Council Queensland endorses the joint position statement of Cancer Council Australia and the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia on the medical use of cannabis, at http://wiki.cancer.org.au/policy/Position_statement_-_Medical_use_of_cannabis.

Cancer Council Queensland submits that there is no current evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids are effective at inhibiting tumour growth or to treat or cure cancer in humans. In addition, there is no current evidence that cannabis or cannabinoids reduce risk or prevent cancer occurrence or promote good health

However, there is some evidence that cannabis and cannabinoids in controlled delivery systems may have a benefit to cancer patients where conventional treatments are unsuccessful in providing relief in the following areas:

- For relieving nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing chemotherapy;
- As an adjunctive analgesic in patients with moderate to severe pain; and/or
- As an appetite stimulant for patients experiencing weight loss and muscle wasting.

Evidence from randomised, controlled trials is required to evaluate the impact of cannabis and cannabinoid products on cancer and side effects of chemotherapy. We urge the Committee to note that smoking the cannabis plant is a particularly harmful method of administration, largely because carcinogenic substances are inhaled into the lungs and cannabinoid levels present in the natural plant are unpredictable.

Please do not hesitate to contact Cancer Council Queensland's  if you require any further information in support of this submission.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Jeff Dunn AO
Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Council Queensland